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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant:** Jose Manuel Alguera Gallego et al  
**International Application No.:** PCT/EP99/06338  
**International Filing Date:** 28 August 1999  
**Title:** SUPPORTING DEVICE  
**Agent's Reference No.:** FMW-EE-PCT-US  
**Date:** February 28, 2001

BOX PCT  
U.S. Receiving Office  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

The invention relates to a supporting device, which comprises a larger clearance for the spindle, whereby the foot receiving device should comprise a high level of stability. The foot-receiving device comprises a component, which occludes the inner sleeve. Said component comprises an opening for admitting the spindle, at least one bracing element located on the upper and/or bottom sides thereof, and two opposing bearing points for the support foot.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

U.S. DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR
5,423,518	June 13, 1995	Baxter et al.
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
0 322 634	July 5, 1989	EP
40 24 825	August 4, 1990	DE
42 25 767	March 10, 1994	DE

Copies of the publications are included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of their materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above publications, the Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copies being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement are the best copies available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDAK & SHUNK CO., L.P.A.

  
Daniel J. Hudak Jr.

Registration No. P-47,669

DJH/lb

7 West Bowery Street, Suite 808  
Akron, OH 44308-1133  
Telephone: (330) 535-2220  
Attorney Docket No.: FMW-EE-PCT-US

(J 166)

<b>Form PTO-1449</b> U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office  <b>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Atty. Docket No.:	Serial No.:
	FMW-EE-PCT-US	
	Applicant: Jose Manuel Alguera Gallego et al	
	Filing Date: February 28, 2001	Group:

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing date if appropriate
	AA	5,423,518	June 13, 1995	Baxter et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	AL	0 322 634	July 5, 1989	EP			
	AM	40 24 825	August 4, 1990	DE			
	AN	42 25 767	March 10, 1994	DE			
	AO						
	AP						

## OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.